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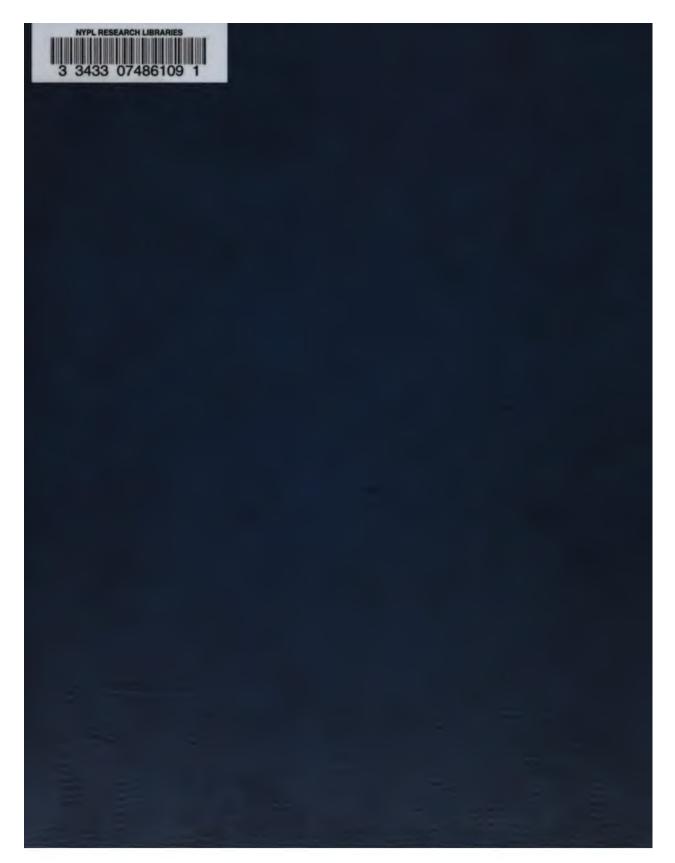
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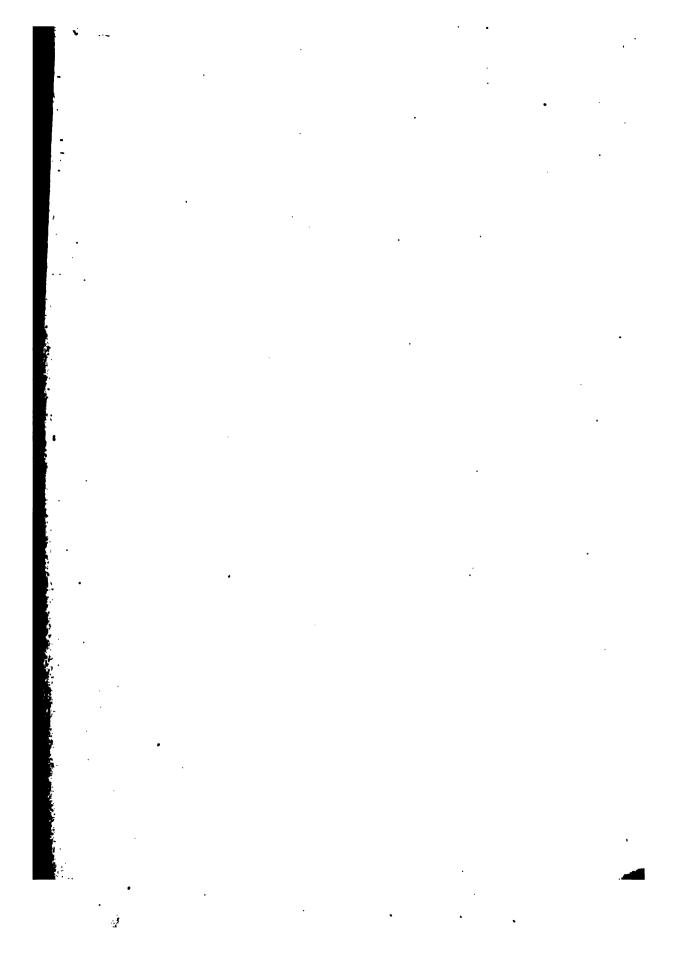
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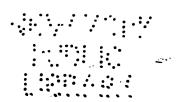
WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

BY THOMAS GRAY



CROWN BUILDINGS, FLEET STREET

1869





Rep. (Bdg. No.) 4/3/ '02

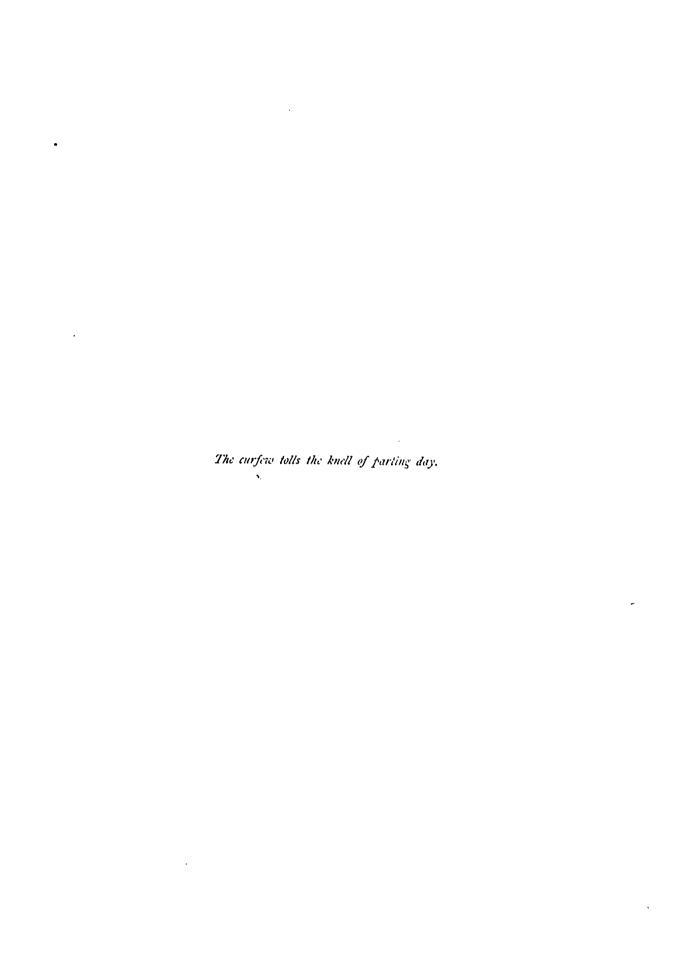
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ASFOR, LENGX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS



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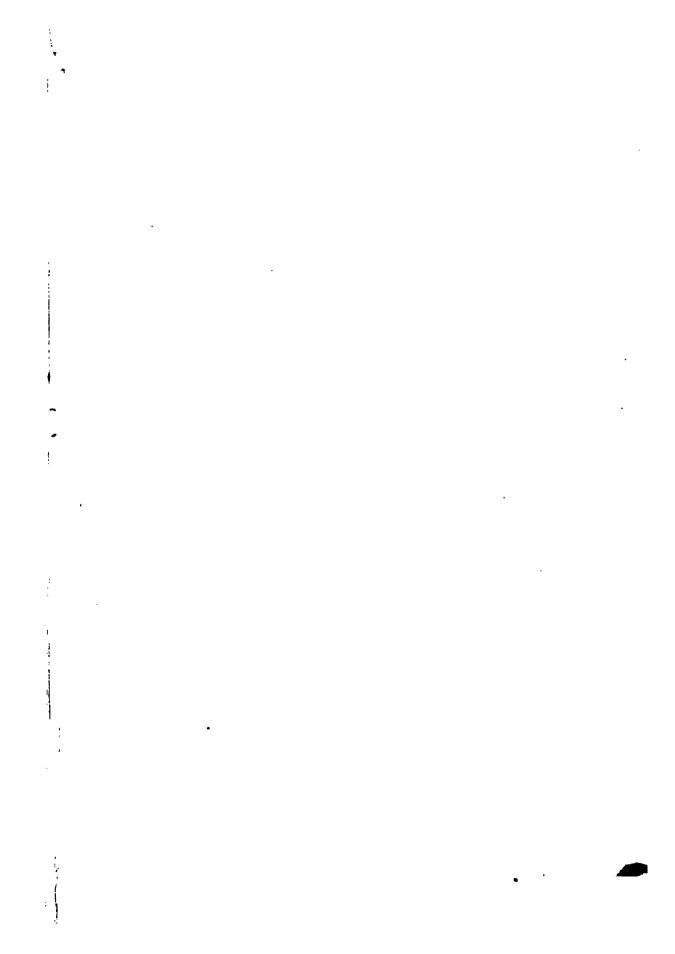
List of Illustrations

From Drawings by R. Barnes, R. P. Leitch, E. M. Wimperis, and others.

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The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea.



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HE curfew tolls the knell of parting day,

The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,

The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,

And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds:

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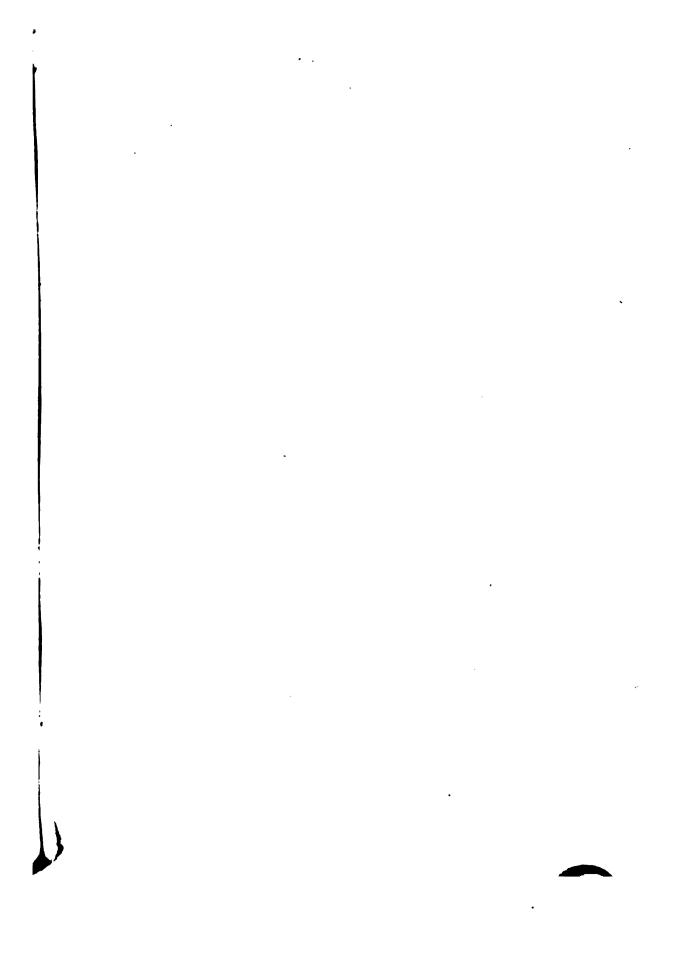


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ASTOP, LENGX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS



The cock's shrill clarion.



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A - 14 LENGX AND

Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tower,

The moping owl does to the moon complain

Of such as, wandering near her secret bower,

Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew tree's shade,

Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap,

Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,

The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

The breezy call of incense-breathing morn,

The swallow twitt'ring from the straw-built shed,

The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing horn,

No more shall rouse them from their lowly bed.

Climb his knees the envied kiss to share.



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ASFOR, LENGX AND

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Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield.



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Homely joys.



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ASTOR, LENGX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

For them no more the blazing hearth shall burn,
Or busy housewife ply her evening care;
No children run to lisp their sire's return,
Or climb his knees the envied kiss to share.

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,

Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke:

How jocund did they drive their team afield!

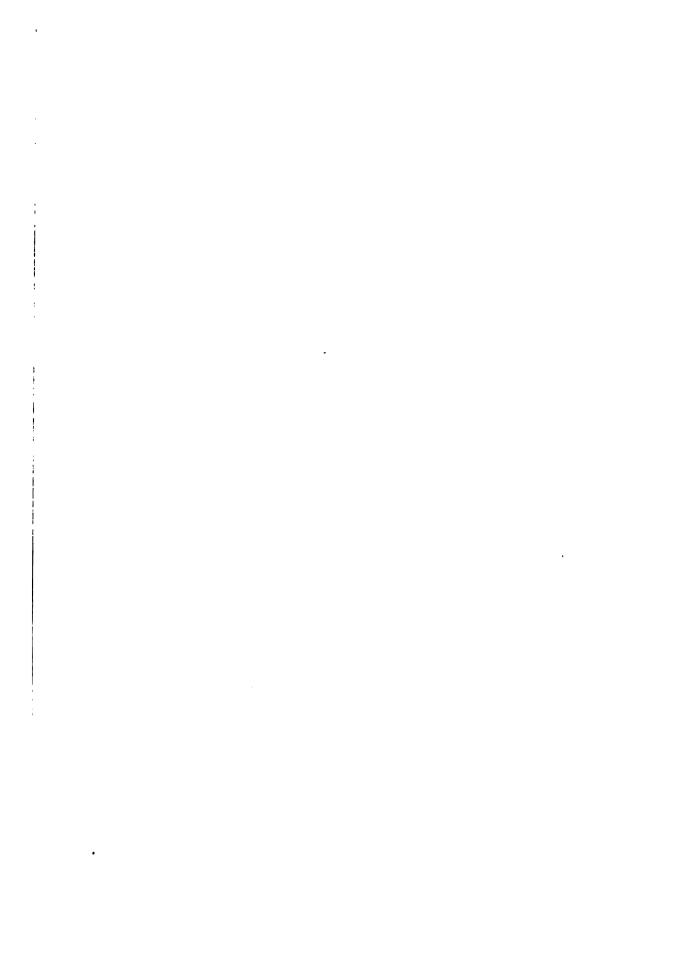
How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke!

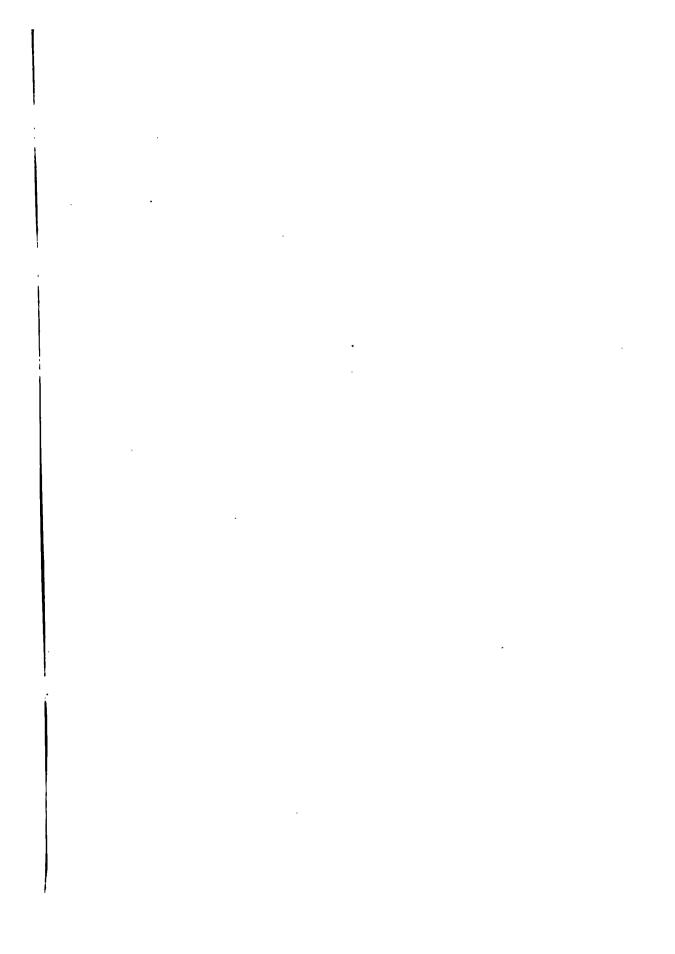
Let not ambition mock their useful toil,

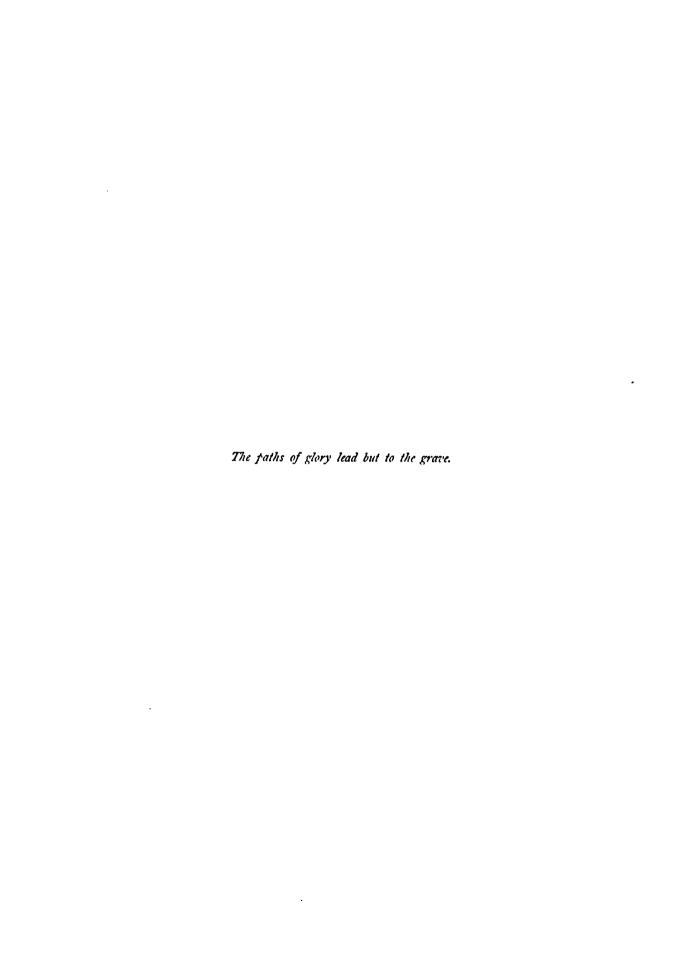
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure;

Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile

The short and simple annals of the poor.



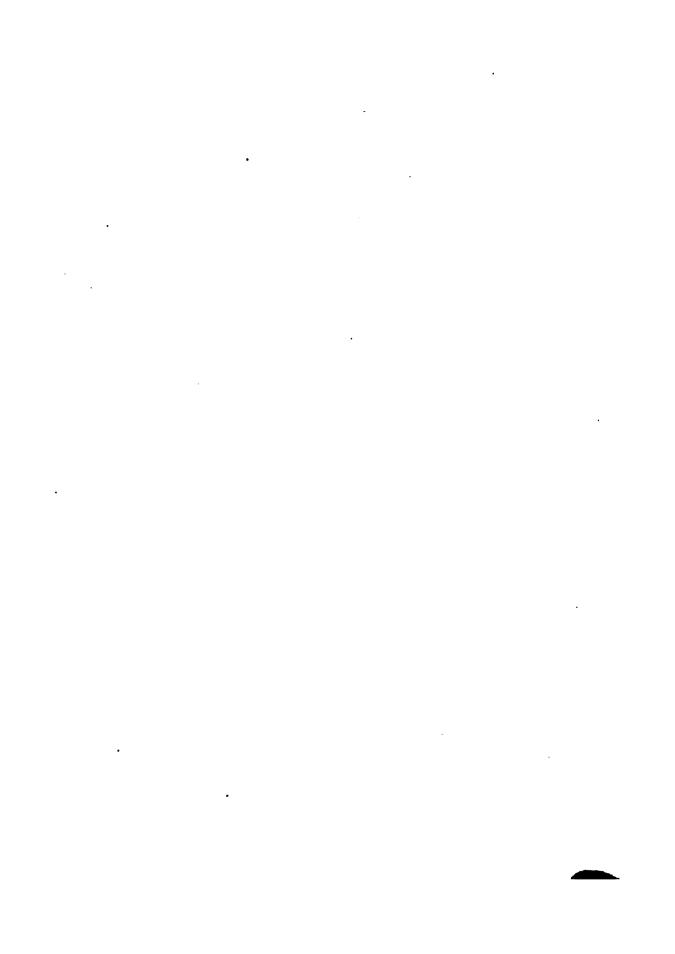


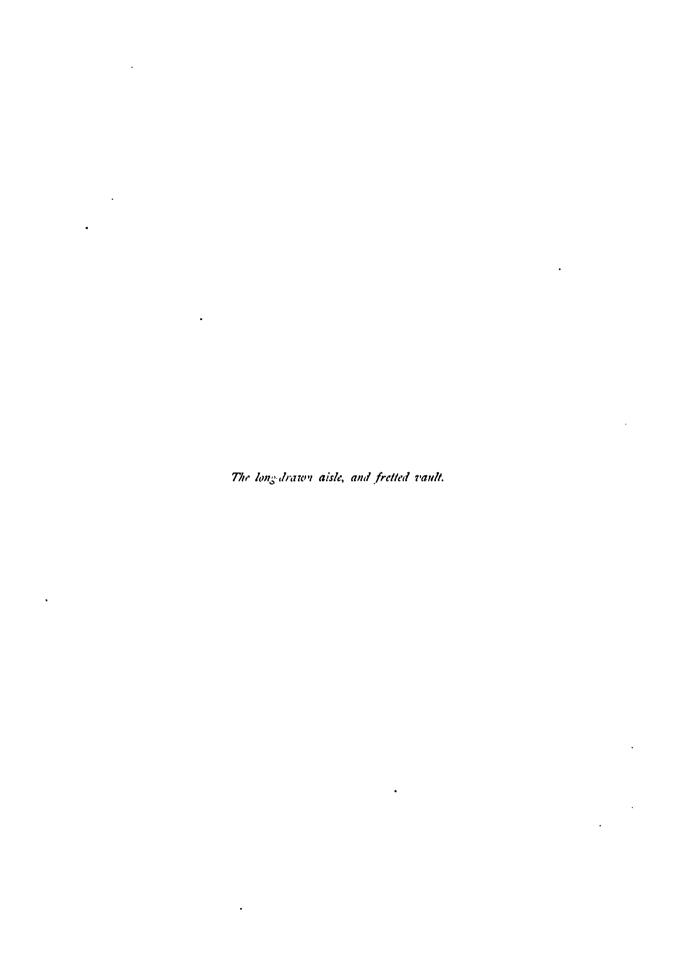




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TI JET FOUNDATIONS

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,

And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,

Await alike th' inevitable hour.

The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Nor you, ye proud, impute to these the fault,

If memory o'er their tomb no trophies raise,

Where through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault,

The pealing anthem swells the note of praise.

Can storied urn, or animated bust,

Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?

Can honour's voice provoke the silent dust,

Or flatt'ry soothe the dull cold ear of death?

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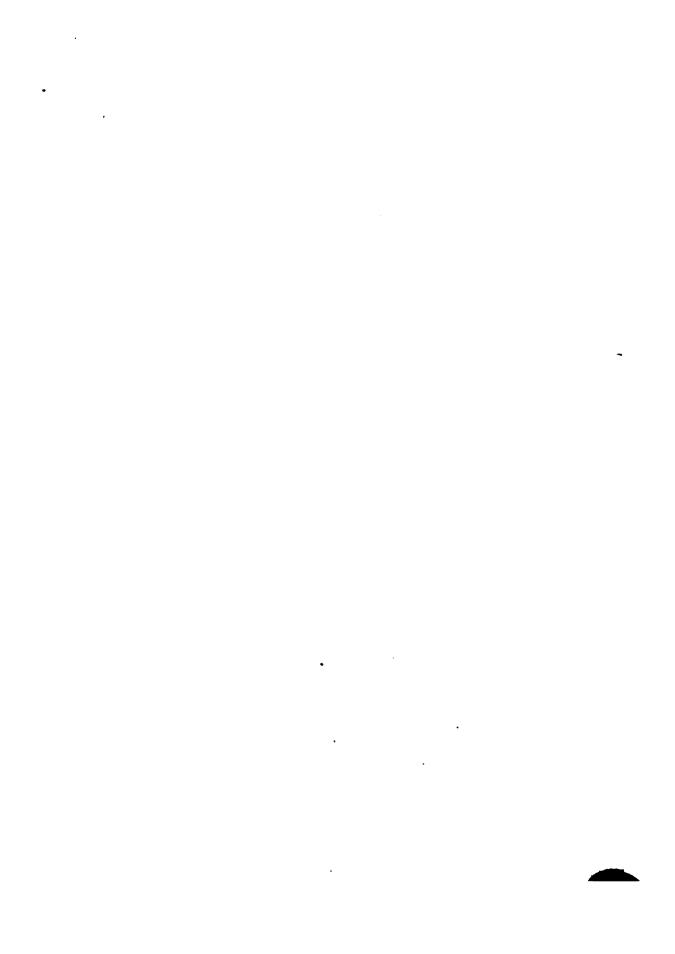


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AS' IP, LENGX AND



Full many a flower is born to blush unseen.



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ASTOR LERGY AND

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid

Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;

Hands, that the rod of empire might have sway'd,

Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre:

But Knowledge to their eyes her ample page
Rich with the spoils of time did ne'er unroll;
Chill Penury repress'd their noble rage,
And froze the genial current of the soul.

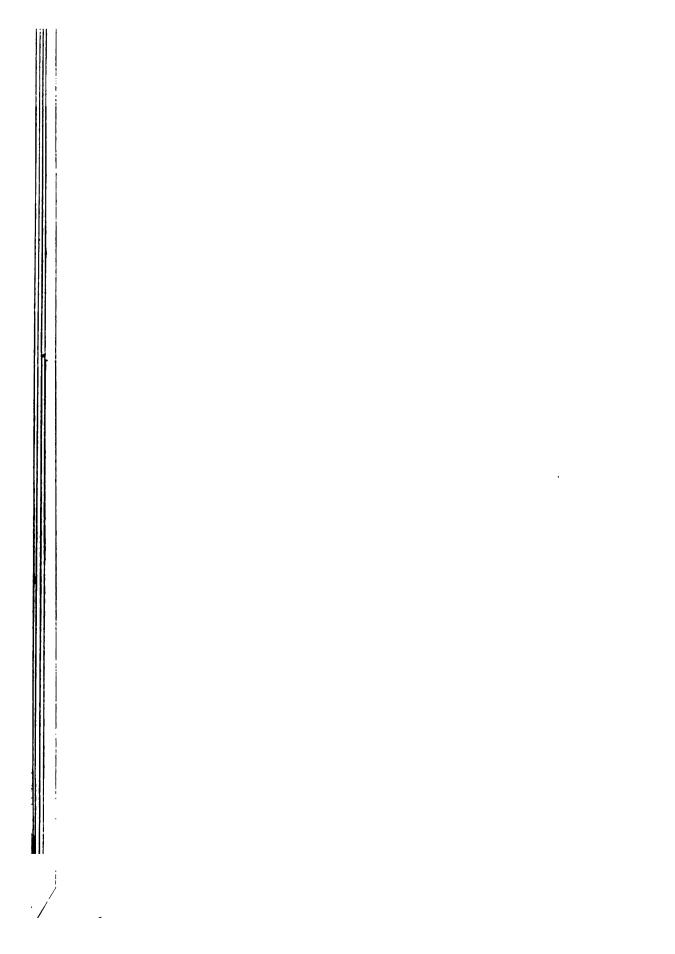
Full many a gem of purest ray serene

The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear:

Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,

And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

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Some viltage Hampden, that, with dauntless breast.



TO NEV YORK
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ASTOR, LENGX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS Some village Hampden, that, with dauntless breast,

The little tyrant of his fields withstood,

Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest,

Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood.

Th' applause of list'ning senates to command,

The threats of pain and ruin to despise,

To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,

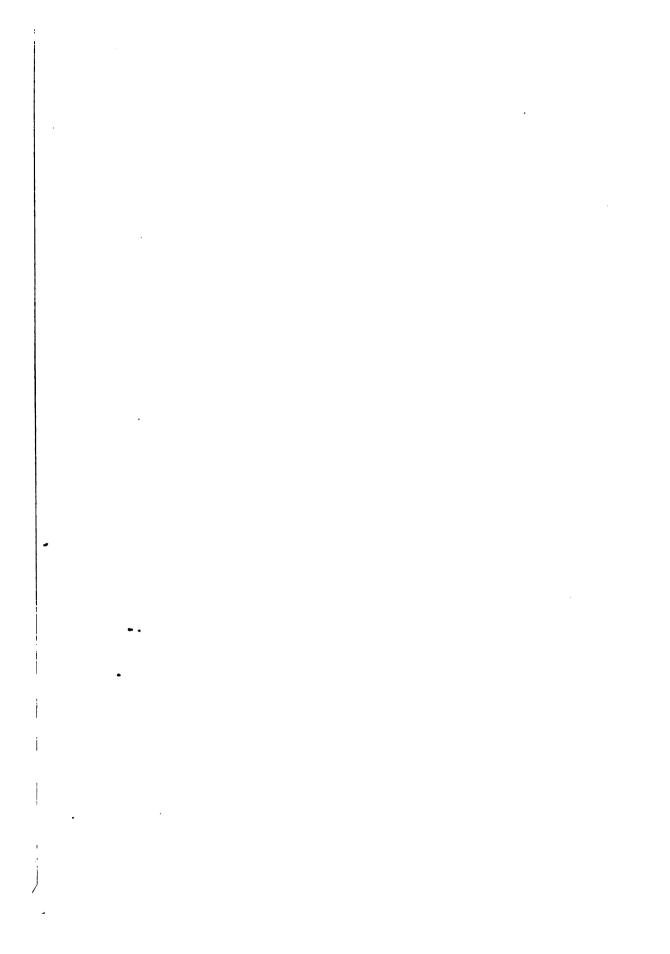
And read their history in a nation's eyes.

Their lot forbade: nor circumscribed alone

Their growing virtues, but their crimes confined;

Forbade to wade thro' slaughter to a throne,

And shut the gates of mercy on mankind,





Along the cool sequestered vale of life.



TU NEW YORK
PLULIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENGX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS The struggling pangs of conscious truth to hide,

To quench the blushes of ingenuous shame,

Or heap the shrine of luxury and pride

With incense kindled at the Muse's flame.

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,

Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray;

Along the cool sequester'd vale of life

They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.

Yet e'en these bones from insult to protect

Some frail memorial still erected nigh,

With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture deck'd,

Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.

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O NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENGY AND TILDEN ENTER DATIONS Their name, their years, spelt by th' unletter'd Muse,

The place of fame and elegy supply:

And many a holy text around she strews,

That teach the rustic moralist to die.

For who, to dumb forgetfulness a prey,

This pleasing anxious being e'er resign'd,

Left the warm precincts of the cheerful day,

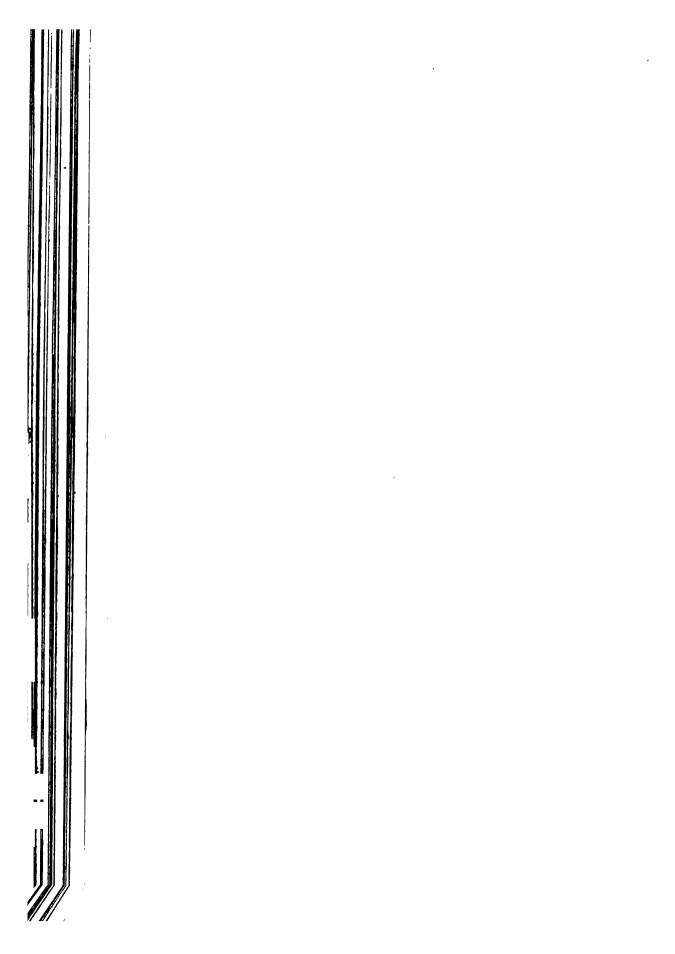
Nor cast one longing ling'ring look behind?

On some fond breast the parting soul relies,

Some pious drops the closing eye requires;

E'en from the tomb the voice of nature cries,

E'en in our ashes live their wonted fires.









PROMIC TIPRARY

ASTUR, LEN . TAND

For thee, who, mindful of th' unhonour'd Dead,

Dost in these lines their artless tale relate;

If chance, by lonely contemplation led,

Some kindred spirit shall enquire thy fate,—

Haply some hoary-headed swain may say,

"Oft have we seen him at the peep of dawn,
Brushing with hasty steps the dews away,

To meet the sun upon the upland lawn:

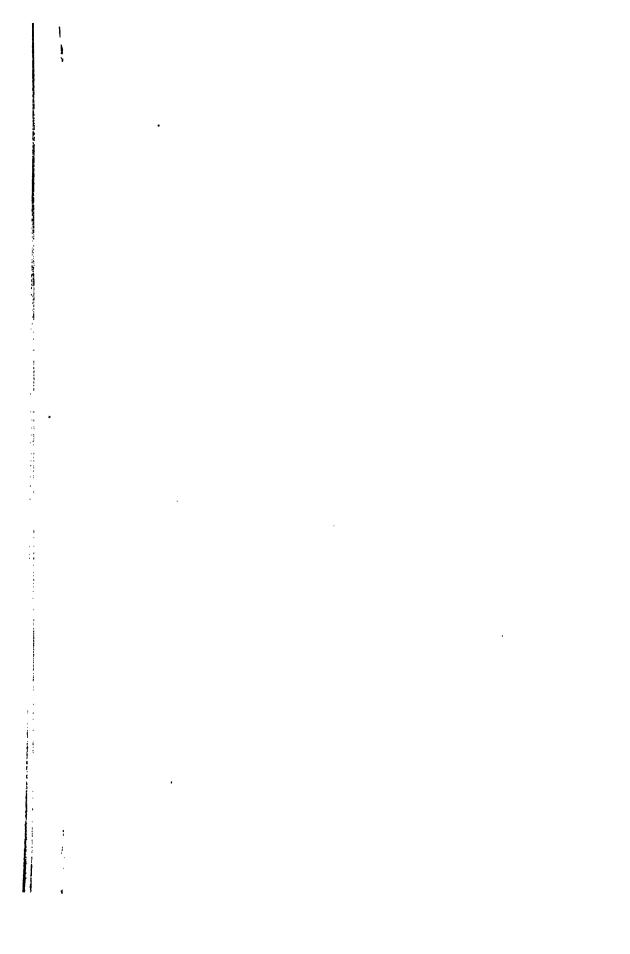
"There at the foot of yonder nodding beech,

That wreathes its old fantastic roots so high,

His listless length at noontide would he stretch,

And pore upon the brook that babbles by.

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J NEW YORK

ASTOP, LENOX AND

- "Hard by yon wood, now smiling as in scorn,

 Mutt'ring his wayward fancies he would rove;

 Now drooping, woful-wan, like one forlorn,

 Or crazed with care, or cross'd in hopeless love.
- "One morn I miss'd him on th' accustom'd hill,
 Along the heath, and near his fav'rite tree;
 Another came; nor yet beside the rill,
 Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he:
- "The next, with dirges due in sad array,

 Slow through the church-way path we saw him borne;

 Approach and read (for thou canst read) the lay

 Grav'd on the stone beneath you aged thorn."

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The Epitaph.

Here rests his head upon the lap of earth

A youth, to fortune and to fame unknown:

Fair Science frown'd not on his humble birth,

And Melancholy mark'd him for her own.

Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere,

Heaven did a recompense as largely send:

He gave to misery (all he had) a tear,

He gain'd from heaven ('twas all he wish'd) a friend.

No farther seek his merits to disclose,

Or draw his frailties from their dread abode,

(There they alike in trembling hope repose,)

The bosom of his Father and his God.



The manuscript from which the present Facsimile has been taken, is the only existing draught of the Poem, the Autograph at Pembroke House, Cambridge, being manifestly a fair copy made by the Poet, probably for circulation among his friends. This draught formed a portion of the papers bequeathed by Gray to his friend and biographer, Mason.

Stanza's norote in a Country Church Yard.

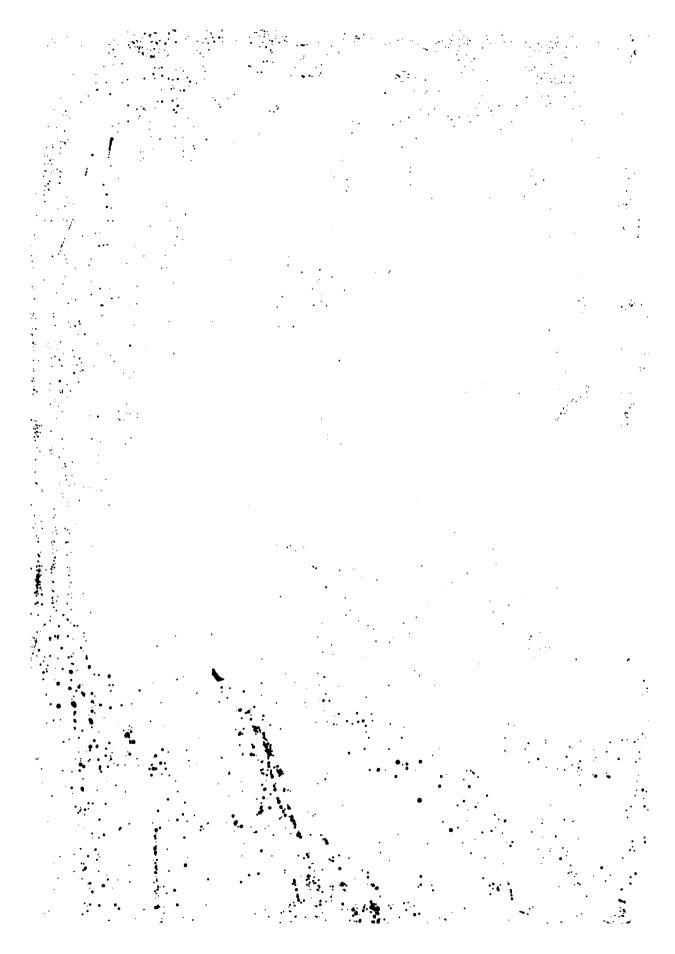
The Curfen tolls the Knell of parting Day, The lowing Herd wind slowly ver the Les , The clowman homeward plods his wears hay, And leaves the north to Darkness be to me. Now fales the glimming Landscape on the Sight, And now the dir a solemn Stillness holds; Save, where the Beetle wheels his broning Flight, Or drongy Sinklings bull the distant Sols. Save that from yonder wy mantled Sonver She moreins Only does to the Moon, complain of such, as wand ring near her secret Borner molist pay into ancient solitary Reign. Beneath those rugged ilms, that Gentree's Shade, Where heaves the Surf in many a mouth ring heap, Each in his narrow cell for aver laid sheep. The rude Sorefathers of the minimum steep. for ever sleep the breezy Call of ofform, con Swallow twitting from the strawbuilt ofhed, or exchains stirm, No more shall rouse them from their lowly Bed. For them no more the Stageing Hearth shall burn, or busy Suswife ply her waring Care; No children run to lise their Sire's Return, no children run to lise the coming His to share. Instignity of climb his knees the coming His to share. oft did the harvest to their Sickie gied; Their Surrow oft the stuborn Glabe has broke; Your jound did they drive their Jean a-field! how low'd the Roods veneath their sturdy troke! Let not elimbition much their weful Soil himsely Their oustie Joss & Nesting obscure: I Smile of the Poor. I when the simple Annals of the Poor.

The Boast of Starabry the Some of Cover one all that Beauty, all that Wealth, war gave smaits alike the inevitable Sour . The Packs of Glory lead but to the Grave. Angive , 40 Frond , th involuntary fault. Il olleway is these no brophies raise, Where thro the long-drawn Ile, be frotted Pault The perling olnthem swell the dote of Posise. Can storied Usa, or animated , Bust , Back to its Marsion call the fleeting Breath ? Can Honour's Vince awake the silent Dust, Or Slottery worth the dull sot lar of Death ! Perhaps in this neglected Spot is laid Sire, Some Seart, once prognant with colestial sire, Mands, that the Meins of Empire might have sway d, Or waked to Eastasy the living . Lyra: She little Syrant of his Fields withstood; Some mute inglorious, July here may ? Some Casar, guiltless of his Country's Blood But Knowledge to their Eyes her ample Page, Rich with the Sports of Sima, did near unroll: Chill Canury had Damp of their noble Rage, And froze the genial Current of the Soul. Full many a fem of purest they sevene. The tark unfathom's Caves of Ocean beat !

Sull many a Flower is forn to blush uncen this wast its - Investings on the owner him. The Applause of listening lanates to command, The Threats of Pain & Ruin to despise. To scatter Plenty our a smiling Line read their Sisting in a Nation's Eyes, Their Tate fortal : nor wewmscribed alone Their straggling Virtues but their Crimes confined; Gorhad to wade thro' Slaughter to a Shrone, And shut the gates of therey on Markind

The struggiaings Vanos of conscious South to hide or quanch the Blushes of ingenuous Shama, in all the Shrine of Luxury & Mile Shrine of Luxury & Mile Mane hallow the Mane Muse I Same had at the Muse I Same had seed at the Muse I same The thoughtless horto to Rajesty may form insit the brave , & idologe checases But more to immounter, their lafety own Than coner to center ice conspired to blass Lost in these clotes the article Tole relate By Right & lonely Contemplation les so linger in the gloomy Walks of Sate Fach how the sacred Calm that rooms around Bill every fierce tumultuous Passion cease In still small decends, whisp ring from the ground of grateful Earnest of eternal seace No more with Reason & thyself at Strife. live anxious Cares & indels Misher mom But thro the cool sequester I lake of sife Pursue the silent denour of the Doom. Far from the madding Cronod's ignoble Sinfe; Their sober Wishes nover knew to stray: Along the cool sequester) Vale of Life. They kept the silent denour of their Way. Yet even chese Bones from Insult to protect Some fruit Memorial still created night unrouthy Thime, & shapeless Soulvoture decat Implores the passing Scibute of a ligh. The Plane their Years, spelt by the unletter i obluse. The Place of same, & Epituph supply, did many a holy Sext around, she strens That teach the rustic Moralist is cit. For who to dumb Torgetfulue is a Pray . This bleasing anxious Being eer resigned Left the warm Precincts of the chearful Day; nor cast one longing lings ing Look behind?

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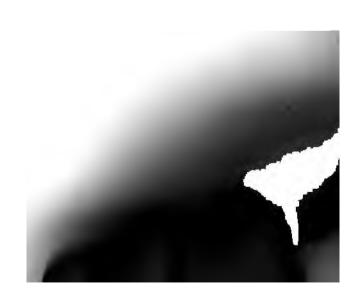
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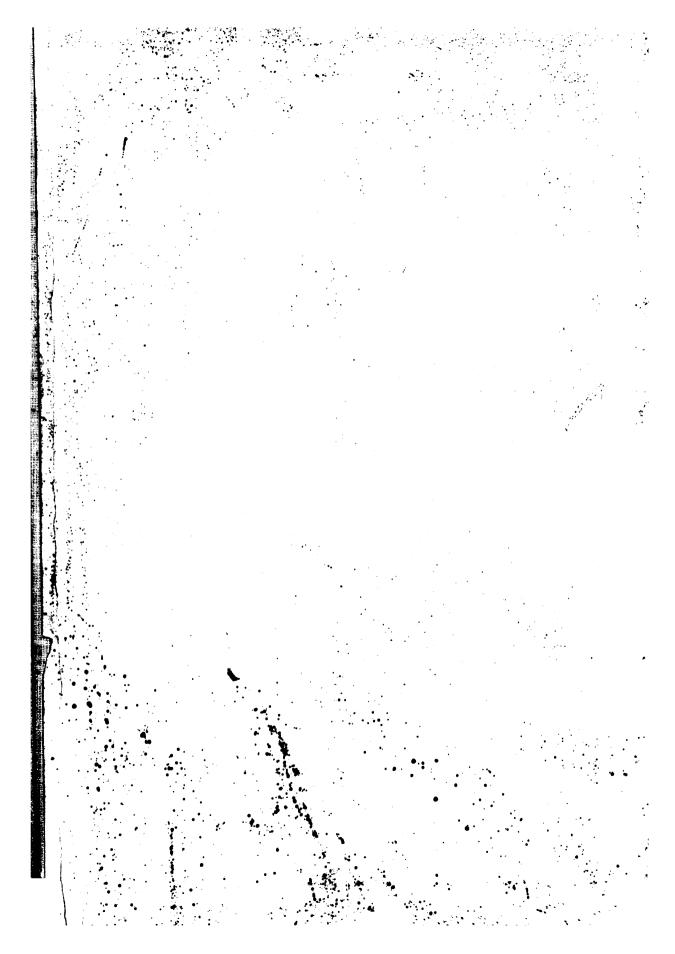
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The struggiaings Vangs of conscious South 2 hide. on quanch the Blushes of ingenuous Shama, and crown the Shrine of Luxury & Moide hallow hallow the Muse's Flame. The chaughtless World to Majesty may ton irelt the brave, & idonage concepts But more to Innounce, their cafety owe Than Power the civite cen conspired to blass and thou who mindful of the unhonoured Dead Dort in these choices they article take relate By Right & lonely Contemplation les To linger in the gloomy - Walks " of Sate. Hark how the sacred Calm that crooks around Bids every fierca tumultuous Passion cease In still small decends, whisp ring from the Ground of grateful Earnest of eternal cleace No more with Reason & Engaly at strife. live anxious Cares & indless Wisher mom But thro the cool requester I lake of sign Pursue the silent Genour of the Doom. Far from the madding Cronods ignoble Strife; Their soler Wishes nover knew to stray: Along the cool sequester) Vale of Life. They kept the silent denour of their Way. Yet even chese Bones from Insult to protect with uncouthy Thime, & shapeles Sempoture, decat imploses the passing Sribute of a ligh. when Plane their Years, spelt by the unletter & offuse The Place of same & Epituph stuples of six many a holy Sext around the strens That teach the rustic Moralist is cir-Sie vleasing anxious Being cer, resign Left the warm Precincts of the chearful Day; nor cast one longing lings ing Look behind?

Breast the parting Soul relies. the closing Eye requires: the Somb, the Voice of Nature cries, And buried owher glow with social Tires For Thee, who mindful as: as above. If chance that ear some pensive Spirit more, relay", sympathetic Musings here With vain, the kind, Enquing skall explore . Sky once loved Haunt, his long-deserted Shade. Maply some hoavy headed Iwain shall say Of have we seen him at the Page of With Lasty Footstaps brush the Dews awa on the high Brow of yorder hanging the Stim have me seen the freen-wood Side While o'er, the Steach we hied, our Labours Oft as the Woodlark piped her favervell long with whistful lyes pursue the setting Silm of your heavy Beach of your heavy Beach that wreather its ob fartastic Roots so high. His listless Length at noontide would he stretch, And pore upon the Brooks that bubbles One Morn we miss him on far nea nor yet fiside the aill, nor at the Wood was he . . south of the with Dioges meet, in sad Array Church way , Jath we saw him ! Approach to read, for whom I wath can'st read There scattered oft the explicit of your By Hands unseen are frequent to lets the Robinstones to built by wartle there And little Frotstaps lightly print then Eury



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